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TRADE UNIONS BLAST FOOD ORGANIZATIONS

Food and marketing enterprises do not give adequate consideration to the consumers' demands and make only a feeble effort to raise the quality or to increase the variety of food stuffs.

The trade-union councils can do a great deal to improve the work of food enterprises, dining rooms, and cafeterias since one of their duties is to coordinate within their republic, kray, or oblast the combined activities of trade unions related to the promotion of the workers' material welfare.

The unions must exercise mass-scale supervision over the work of food stores, dining rooms, cafeterias, and marketing centers, as well as over the punctual delivery and storage of vegetables at cities and villages.

In addition, individual gardening and cattle raising must be developed among workers and employees. In this, the trade unions must be given direct assistance. Finally, a proper distribution of stores, dining rooms, cafeterias, food and marketing enterprises must be organized.

After the abolition of the ration card system the trade unions relaxed their control, considering it no longer necessary. In this, they were, of course, mistaken. It is precisely at this time, when Soviet trade has expanded, consumers' demands have grown, and the possibilities of satisfying them have been greatly augmented, that the trade unions must give increased attention to public supervision over and active participation in the planning of goods deliveries to the cities, rayons, oblasts, krays, and republics.

At the beginning of 1949, the Moscow, Gor'kiy, Tatar, Molotov, Chelyabinsk, and a number of other trade-union councils organized a mass inspection of the preservation of vegetables, and the state of public supervision over the vegetable storage houses of ORS (Division of Workers' Supplies) and those of the Trade Ministry's enterprises. The trade-union councils attached plant, factory, and local committees to the storage points of food markets and trusts. In this manner, tens of thousands of tons of vegetables were saved.

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Thanks to the direct intervention of the councils, more than 200,000 workers from the unions, commercial enterprises, and health institutions were enlisted this year for inspection work. As a result, 190,000 commercial and food enterprises were inspected and 12,000 new dining rooms, stores, booths, etc., were opened. The Moscow Oblast council, alone, organized 8,000 persons into inspection commissions and brigades. More than 3,300 commercial enterprises were subjected to overhauling, 200 cafeterias were opened for workers on night shifts, and many dining rooms and stores were equipped with refrigeration and a wider assortment of foods.

The Moscow city trade-union council, through plant and factory committees, inspected almost nine tenths of all the marketing enterprises in the city to determine whether they were prepared for the summer's business.

Similar inspections were carried out by the Azerbaydzhan trade-union council; as a result, about half of the food-dispensing establishments were overhauled.

To make the inspection successes permanent, the Rostov, Sverdlovsk, Voroshilovgrad, and other councils assigned factory and plant committees to thousands of stores and dining rooms for daily inspection. Supplementary to this measure, the trade unions of the Voroshilovgrad Oblast elected 1,718 public inspectors; the Smolensk Oblast elected 650; and the Tatar ASSR, 600.

The thoroughgoing nature of the present inspection campaign is exemplified by the following: The trade-union council of the Belorussian SSR, having examined the report of the trade-union committee of the construction materials industry, discovered that the latter had failed to implement the VTsSPS decision regarding food inspection; therefore, its central committee adopted measures to increase such activities among the union of the Belorussian SSR. Not content with this, the council addressed a request to the local ministers of Forestry and of Construction Materials to examine the work of the ORS at a cabinet meeting, with a view toward eliminating the shortcomings.

The Uzbek SSR's trade-union council, upon examination of the work of the ORS of several of the largest enterprises in Tashkent, uncovered serious shortcomings which were due to the unsatisfactory leadership of high economic agencies and the failure of the Ministry of Trade to exercise proper control. The Council requested discussion of the matter at a cabinet meeting, and adopted measures towards establishing a stock of merchandise and its proper distribution.

The Voronezh trade-union council, following a complaint of the committee of the Lipetsk Tractor Plant that its ORS had received an unfair allotment of merchandise, took part in the examination of the food plans of the Oblast Executive Committee; as a result, additional amounts of groats and sweetmeats were issued to the ORS.

In the city of Ashkhabad, last June, the trade unions discovered an absence in the stores of canned goods, yeast, vinegar, and mineral water, all of which are in great demand; they had not been delivered in time to the Turkmen SSR. The republic's trade-union council placed the matter before the VTsSPS and at the latter's request, the Ministry of Trade USSR took steps to have these products furnished to the republic's marketing organizations.

Very often goods which are not to be had on the market are lying at supply bases. In April of this year, the marketing organizations of the Tatar ASSR, Kabardinian ASSR, Novosibirsk, and other oblasts failed to put in an order for laundry soap, although there was a demand for it in the stores; and in Vologda, Stalingrad, Astrakhan', and Groznyy oblasts, Buryat-Mongol ASSR, Moldavian SSR, and Tadzhik SSR, the marketing organizations had failed to order vegetable oil, which was in demand.

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There were similar occurrences in a number of oblasts in regard to other products during the second quarter of 1949. For instance, in the marketing system of Rostov, a lack of sausage products, salt, headgear and other goods was discovered, while they were available at the wholesale warehouses.

Unfortunately, such things also exist today. While the legitimate demand of the population thus remains unsatisfied, the fulfillment of the planned turnover of goods is thereby adversely affected. Practical experience shows that intervention by the trade unions in this matter is beneficial.

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